

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 00085 050422Z

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ACTION EA-09

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NSAE-00 SIL-01 L-03 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 DODE-00 /040 W

----- 104889

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 785

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 0085

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, RP

SUBJECT: WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CBA NEGOTIATIONS

FOLLOWING TEL SENT FROM CINCPACREPPHIL SUBIC BAY RP ON P 310316Z
DEC 75 SENT TO CINCPACFLT FOR ACTION, INFO CINCPACAF, CDRUSACSG,
CINCPAC, AAFES, OCMM FD, THREE COMBAT SUPPORT GROUP CLARK AB
THIRTEENTH AIR FORCE CLARK AB, PHILIPPINE REGIONAL EXCHANGE
CLARK, AMERICAN EMBASSY MANILA AND OOMM PFD SUBIC BAY OFFICE
REPEATED TO DEPARTMENT FOR INFO

QUOTE

SUBJ: WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CBA NEGOTIATIONS

1. (C) WHILE THE CHRISTMAS WEEK WAS SHORT ON WORKDAYS, IT
PRODUCED A FLURRY OF ACTIVITY IN THE CBA NEGOTIATIONS WHICH
RESULTED IN NO CONCRETE SETTLEMENT.
2. (C) ON MONDAY, 22 DECEMBER THE PANELS MET AT SUBIC
PRESUMABLE TO FINALIZE AND SIGN ARTICLES RELATING TO COMPEN-
SATION, DISCIPLINE AND RELATED MATTERS. IT SOON BECAME APPARENT
THAT THE FEDERATION DID NOT WANT TO GIVE UP THEIR FIGHT ON
NEGOTIABILITY OF COMPENSATION IN RETURN FOR CONCESSIONS ON
DISCIPLINE. THEY ADDED TWO AMENDMENTS TO WHAT THEY HAD AGREED
TO THE PREVIOUS FRIDAY ON THE DISCIPLINARY ARTICLE; THE SECOND
AMENDMENT BEING ESSENTIALLY A FORM OF BINDING ARBITRATION. WHEN
THE FEDERATION WAS TOLD THAT THEIR LATE AMENDMENTS WERE UNACCEPT-
ABLE, DR. OCAMPO ASKED IF WE COULD AGREE WE WERE AT IMPASSE
OVER THE TWO MAJOR ISSUES. WHEN TOLD WE WERE NOT BUT SHOULD
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MANILA 00085 050422Z

RESUME DISCUSSIONS ON 6 JANUARY AS PLANNED THE WEEK BEFORE, HE

RETORTED THAT THE FEDERATION CONSIDERED ITSELF AT IMPASSE AND WOULD SO INFORM THE FIL SIDE OF THE JOINT US-RP COMMITTEE.

3. (C) THE JOINT COMMITTEE DECIDED TO MEET INFORMALLY ON WEDNESDAY AND REQUESTED THAT THE TWO PANELS MAKE THEMSELVES AVAILABLE ALSO.

4. (C) ON WEDNESDAY MORNING AN ARTICLE QUOTING DR. OCAMPO AND MR. GARCIA APPEARED IN THE MANILA TIMES JOURNAL STATING THE AREAS OF DIFFERENCE, DECRYING THE PORTRACTED NEGOTIATING PERIOD AND STATING THAT A STRIKE WAS INEVITABLE. THE JOINT COMMITTEE WORKED OUT AGREEMENT WITH THE TWO PANELS CHAIRMAN ON ALL BUT FOUR ITEMS WITHIN THE COMPENSATION AND DISCIPLINE ARTICLES. SECRETARY INCIONG INDICATED HE WOULD DISCUSS THESE WITH THE FIL NEGOTIATING TEAM AND BOTH SIDES WOULD THEN SIT DOWN TO DRAFT ACCEPTABLE LANGUAGE. THERE WAS EVIDENTLY NO AGREEMENT REACHED AMONG THE FIL PARTICIPANTS AND THE U.S. PANEL LEFT MANILA.

5 (C) ON SATURDAY, THE U.S. BASES WERE CONTACTED BY THE U.S. CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE. THE FIL PANEL PRESUMABLE HAD REACHED CONSENSUS AND WAS READY TO SIGN OFF ON THE POSITIONS AGREEABLE TO THE U.S. SIDE ON WEDNESDAY. ARRANGEMENTS TO MEET WERE UNDERSTOOD BY THE U.S. PANEL TO HAVE BEEN MADE FOR MONDAY MORNING AT THE ARMY-NAVY CLUB. SUNDAY NIGHT, SANDBURG MET WITH SECRETARY INCIONG IN MANILA TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER THE FEDERATION HAD AGREED ON THE SPECIFICS DISCUSSED OR WHETHER SECRETARY INCIONG WAS PROCEEDING ON VAGUE GENERALITIES. IT BECAME CLEAR AT THAT MEETING THAT THE FIL PANEL HAD RECEIVED VAGUE IF ANY WORD ABOUT A MONDAY MEETING EXCEPT THAT GIVEN DR. OCAMPO BY THE BASES WHICH HE HAD RECEIVED WITH SOME SKEPTICISM. THE U.S. TEAM APPEARED MONDAY, THE FIL TEAM DID NOT.

SECRETARY INCIONG SAID HE HAD ADVISED THEM OF THE MEETING BUT TWO OF HIS ASSOCIATES (IN PRIVATE TO MR. SANBURG) SAID HE HAD NOT DONE SO; HE MERELY THOUGHT HE HAD. SO MONDAY WAS A FIASCO.

6. (C) BEFORE MONDAY WAS OVER, SECRETARY INCIONG AND THE U.S. JOINT COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AGREED THAT THE JOINT COMMITTEE WOULD BE IN READINESS TO MEET ON 6 JANUARY IF THE TWO PANELS DID NOT APPEAR TO BE MAKING RAPID PROGRESS UPON RECONVENING ON THAT DATE.

7. (C) FEDERATION STRATEGY AT THIS POINT IS NOT CLEAR. SECRETARY INCIONG IS APPLYING PRESSURE TO THEM TO SIGN A CONTRACT AND HE HOLDS A GREAT DEAL OF POWER OVER THE FEDERATION. HE CAN PUT THEM OUT OF BUSINESS WITH A STROKE OF HIS PEN AND HE CAN CERTAINLY

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MANILA 00085 050422Z

THWART AND EFFORTS TO MOUNT A LEGAL STRIKE. ON THE OTHER HAND, FEDERATION LEADERS NEED TO SAVE SOME FACE, HAVING MADE COMMITMENTS TO THEIR MEMBERSHIP AND NOW STATEMENTS TO THE PRESS IN AN ATTEMPT TO PRESSURE THE BASES. AN EARLY SIGNING IS ECEPTEED UNLESS THE BASES REFUSE TO OFFER THE SELECTIVE SIGNING BONUS TO MEMBERS ONLY. IN VIEW OF THE NEWSPAPER ARTICLES, THE U.S. TEAM HAS NOTED THAT ITS POSITION ON THE SIGNING BONUS IS IN DOUBT. WE CONSIDER THE NEWS STORY A BREACH OF THE GROUND RULES. THE FEDERATION'S

POSITION AS EXPRESSED TO INCIONG IS THAT IT RELEASED THE STORY
AFTER TALKS "BROKE DOWN".

8. (C) CDR S.H EVANS, BASES CHAIRMAN, LEFT FOR CONUS TODAY AND
WILL NOT RETURN.

9. (C) ACTION REQUESTED FROM JLPC: AS AN INTERIM REPLACEMENT FOR
CDR EVANS, APPROVAL IS REQUESTED TO HAVE MR.C.R. MONCRIEF, JR.,
WHO HAS FUNCTIONED AS EXECUTIVE SECRETARY TO THE BASES PANEL
ACT AS CHAIRMAN OF P-5 OR O-6 RANK BE NOMINATED BY CINCPACREPPHIL
AND CONFIRMED BY JLPC. GDS-81. UNQUOTESULLIVAN

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